

# The Canadian Epworth Era.

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## OPPORTUNITY.

Master of human destinies am I,—  
Fame, love and fortune on my footsteps  
wait.

Cities and fields I walk. I penetrate  
Deserts and seas remote. And passing by  
Hovel and mart and palace, soon or late  
I knock, unbidden, once, at every gate.  
If sleeping, wake; if feasting, rise before  
I turn away; it is the hour of fate,  
And those who follow me reach every  
state  
Mortals desire, and conquer every foe  
Save death; but those who doubt or  
hesitate,  
Condemned to failure, penury and woe,  
Seek me in vain, and uselessly implore.  
I answer not, and I return no more.

—*Ex-Senator Ingalls.*

**Our Southern Brethren.**—The General Conference of the M. E. Church South, elected two new bishops, Rev. E. E. Hoss, D.D., and Rev. A. Coke Smith, D.D. They are good men and will fill the important position creditably. We are pleased to see that our *confere*, Rev. Dr. Du Bose, has been re-elected as General Secretary of the Epworth League.

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**An Awful Disaster.**—For those who laugh at the idea of Sodom and Gomorrah being overwhelmed by fire and brimstone, there is something to think about in the destruction which came upon St. Pierre through the eruption of Mount Pelee recently. No one is, however, justified in concluding that this awful disaster was a judgment of God on account of the wickedness of the people. Such an explanation is scarcely in harmony with the fact that good and bad perished together, and the only survivor was a murderer who was protected by his cell.

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**From Literature to the Gospel.**—A college Professor tells of a club of women in Chicago, composed of Protestants, Catholics, Jewesses, agnostics, secularists—all stripes of faith and no faith—who, after exhausting Browning, Tennyson, Ibsen, and everybody else, invited him to take them through some books of the Bible in a literary, but not a religious way. He commenced with Job and Ecclesiastes, and they were greatly attracted by them. The next year he took up with them the Prophets; the third, the Acts of the Apostles; and, in the fourth, introduced this mixed club, now thoroughly interested, to the Gospels. Some were religiously aroused, some had taken to reading the Bible in private and devotionally, and others had gone to

teaching in the Sunday-school. It often happens that young people can be interested in the literary study of the Bible who would decidedly object to start in with its devotional study.

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**Peace in South Africa.**—It was welcome tidings, indeed, that flashed over the wires, early in the past month, announcing that peace had been declared in South Africa. No wonder that the bells rang and the whistles screamed. It was particularly gratifying that the war was ended before Coronation Day. There will be some difficult problems to settle yet in South Africa, but it is to be hoped that the Boers will generally accept the situation, and Dutch and English dwell together as happily as French and English have done in Canada.

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**A Canadian Hero.**—That was a noble letter which Private Evans, the hero of the Hart's River fight, sent to his parents shortly before his death. Speaking for himself and his brother, he writes: "Before this reaches you we will probably be after Dewet. We can only hope for a safe and victorious trip. Many a good man has died for the old flag, and why should not I? If parents had not given their sons, and sons had not given themselves for the British Empire, it would not to-day be the proud dictator of the world. So if one or both of us should die there will be no vain regrets, for we will have done what thousands have done before us—given our lives for a good cause." It is gratifying to learn that he had for years been a devoted Christian. For his death had no sting and neither the grave nor the Boers could boast a victory.

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**Wesleyan Gains.**—The Wesleyans have gained in England within the year just ended 8,136 members. Their membership now enrolls 463,118. The gain is the largest that has been reported since 1883, and would seem to show a tendency in the direction of increasing ecclesiastical prosperity. In addition there are on trial 33,706, and besides there are scores of thousands who are communicants, but who fail to comply with the class-meeting test, and therefore are not reported as full members. Among these are some of the most faithful and generous supporters of British Methodism. In the Junior Society classes there are organized 86,565 young people.

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**Christian Science.**—The *Christian Advocate*, New York, in reporting the happy results of a remarkable case of surgery in the restoration of the patient,

concludes thus: "The anti-medicine faith healers, the Christian Scientists, and the other despisers of the gifts of God to man for self-protection and reparation could have made nothing of this." To which an exchange responds: "You are wrong, doctor, entirely wrong. They could have made something most solemn and impressive of it—a funeral."

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**Japan to the Front.**—Japan, though so young a member of the family of civilized nations, is at the front in some things. April 1, 1900, a law was put into effect prohibiting any boy or girl under twenty years of age from using tobacco in any form, with a penalty on the consenting parents, and also a penalty ten times as large on the man or woman who sells the tobacco to such boys or girls. Since the promulgation of this law, the Minister of Education has issued orders that all students in the schools of elementary or middle grade are forbidden to use it in any form, regardless of age. If a student in the middle grade should be fifty years old he is prohibited.

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**A Costly Experiment.**—One lesson in the school of experience, where tuition comes so high at times, has made an unwilling convert to vaccination of a Massachusetts physician, Dr. Immanuel Pfeiffer. Until a few days ago he opposed vaccination with all the force of a strenuous nature, achieving notoriety by his published articles and his passionate harangues, in which he repeatedly declared smallpox could not come to one in as good health as he was. He was an anti-vaccinationist clear to his finger tips. So strong was his conclusion on this matter that he went unvaccinated to the smallpox hospital on Gallop's Island, in Boston Harbor, circulated freely among the patients, and, to thoroughly prove his theory, stooped over one of them and inhaled his breath. Now he has the smallpox in its most virulent form; but he is sane enough to declare that, after all, he was mistaken. The lesson of his confession and his experience is strangely emphasized by the fact that not one of the doctors and nurses who have been attending patients on Gallop's Island steadily for six months past has contracted the disease—all of them having been vaccinated.

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**Half a Century Old.**—The *North-western Christian Advocate* of Chicago, one of our most valued exchanges, publishes a special illustrated number to celebrate its semi-centennial. The *North-western* is one of the best family religious papers we know of, and deserves all the success it has achieved.